by the Government in both Houses of Parliament on 18th April 2000. The Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and other relevant aspects decided that the national security system in its entirety be thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Ministers headed by the Home Minister with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members. Further, the Armed Forces have been directed to step up their vigil all along the LoC and international border. Measures taken to counter Kargil like situation are also being regularly reviewed by the Government.

Change in Defence Policy

3379. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent visit of the US-President to India mark any change in the defence and security policy of Government from a tilt in favour of erstwhile USSR and Russia to one favouring the US and other western powers; and

(b) if so, how far India's defence forces depended on Soviet arms, aircraft and other defence supplies a decade ago and at present and how far this tilt has been corrected in terms of defence supplies?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Government of India constantly endeavours to establish and maintain friendly ties with all countries. However, establishment or furtherance of such ties with any country, including USA, does not in any way impact on our close relationship with Russia in the field of defence and security. While our defence equipment is sourced from a large number of countries, a significant proportion of our existing stock of defence equipment continues to be of Soviet/Russian origin.

Modernisation of ordnance factories

3380. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ordnance factories will be investing Rs. 1000 crore to modernise and replace existing capital equipment over the next two-three years;